

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with **Attorney Thomas E. Kokovsky je. Reg. No. 28,383** on 4/25/2008 along with authorization to charge any necessary fees to applicant's deposit account.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

A) Replace the title with: Moving Table MRI with Sub-Sampling in Parallel

Examiner's Comment

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on **7/02/2007** is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner has considered the information disclosure statement of **7/02/2007**. The initialed and dated information disclosure statement of **7/02/2007** is attached to this office action.
3. Applicant's arguments, see the after final amendment, file 4/18/2008, with respect to **claims 1-16** in view of the after-final amendments which clarify novelty, resolve antecedence type formal matters and are fully supported in the application as originally disclosed and described have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of February 19th 2008 have been withdrawn.

After-final Amendment of 4-18-2008 approved for entry

4. The after-final amendments of 4/18/2008 have been approved for entry by the examiner, as the application is now considered to be allowable by the examiner, since

the after-final amendments provides resolution to all formal matters, intended use and antecedence issues so that all features of the claims now have full patentable weight. The after-final amendments also clarify that in applicant's arrangement there are **at least two** receiver antenna carrying out each of the method steps of After-final **amended claim 1**. Additionally after-final **amended independent claims 2, 6, 10, 11, 12, and 13**; as well as dependent claims 3, 4, 5, and 7 which have been amended to clarify the significance of having the applicant's "at least two antennas", conducting each of the Moving table MRI measurements with the subsampling occurring in **parallel**, and recite all features in a positive non-ambiguous manner consistently, also now distinguish the applicant's MRI method, apparatus and System from those of the prior arts of record, while being fully supported by the originally filed specification and disclosure. The after-final amendments are considered to be free of new matter by the examiner

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 4/18/2008 have been fully considered and are persuasive. All the previous grounds of rejection from the last office action have been withdrawn and the after-final amendment of 4/18/2008 has as stated above been approved for entry.

Reasons for Allowance

6. With respect to After-final Amended **Method Claims 1, 2, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13**, These claims are considered to be in condition for allowance because applicant's claims perform MRI excitation with continuous movement of the patient, and use at least two receiver antennas to undersample a restricted region of a patient, in a plurality of receive situations being defined as a block of measurements contiguous in time **having preserved magnetisation and presaturation conditions within the excited area of the patient and fold-over artefacts due to said undersampling are unfolded by means of the sensitivity pattern of the receiver antennas**. The prior art of record does not teach this combination of features, in conjunction with each of the other limitations set forth in applicant's 4/18/2008 after-final amended claims.

7. With respect to **dependent claims 3-5, 7-9, and 14-16** each of these claims are considered to be allowable by the examiner because they each depend from an allowable after-final amended independent Claim.

Prior Art of Record

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

A) **Zhu** US patent application publication 2003/0004408 A1 published Jan. 2nd 2003, filed April 19th 2001.

B) All of the **Brittain** and **Brittain et al.**, references noted on the attached Notice of references cited.

C) **Zhu et al.**, US patent application publication **2004/0051529 A1** published March 18th 2004.

D) **Zhu et al.**, US patent **7,009,396 B2** issued March 7th 2006, filed **September 12th 2002**. which is the US patent of **Zhu et al.**, US patent application publication **2004/0051529 A1** published March 18th 2004.

E) **Kuhara** US patent application publication **2002/0021128 A1** Published Feb. 21st 2002, filed **April 25th 2001**.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tiffany Fetzner whose telephone number is: (571) 272-2241. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday-Thursday from 7:00am to 2:10 pm., and on Tuesday and Thursday from 7:00am to 5:30pm.

10. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Diego Gutierrez**, can be reached at (571) 272-2245. The **only official fax phone number** for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **(571) 273-8300**.

11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application information Retrieval (PAIR) system Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PMR or Public PMR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PMR only. For more information about the PMR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you

Application/Control Number: 10/547,196

Page 5

Art Unit: 2831

have questions on access to the Private PMR system contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/TAF/
May 6, 2008

/Brij Shrivastav/
Primary Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800